

6311 Wilson Lane
Bethesda, MD 20817
May 12, 1999

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Commissioner Jane E. Henney
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I have done a lot of research on irradiation. After doing this, I agree with the FDA's decision to allow certain foods, including raw meat and fruit, to be irradiated. I can not wait until the big grocery companies, like Giant, begin to market irradiated food, so I can eat safer, cleaner food. I will give you several reasons why I agree with the use of irradiation.

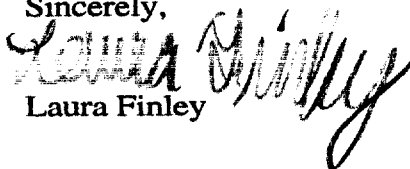
My first reason is that irradiation is perfectly safe. According to The Washington Times, "No food worker has ever been killed on the job, and no consumer has been documented to suffer health effects from irradiated food. NONE." I think that this helps to prove just why irradiated food is not harmful, but helpful, and will prevent people in my life from being harmed due to food. Also, irradiated food can be immediately eaten, and will last up to eight years without going bad, says Health and Fitness. I think this is a big improvement in the step to market safer food.

Another reason why irradiation is necessary is that it is the only known method for killing bacteria in food. I think this is a major reason to support irradiation, making it essential in manufacturing better and safer food. Dallas Morning News says, "It is the only known method for killing E. Coli in raw meat." This is yet another reason to use irradiation. The Washington Times states, it can reduce, if not diminish, other extremely harmful bacteria.

Finally, irradiation is essential because it saves lives. Health and Fitness says, "... irradiation kills deadly bacteria that can cause death, such as trichina worms and salmonella." Nine thousand people die every year from food poisoning, etc., and eighty-one million become sick, all in just one year. Irradiation could help prevent this. This will play a big part in my life because it will help prevent death and sickness in people close to me, as well as myself.

For the above reasons, I agree with the FDA's decision to allow food to be irradiated. I hope you are happy with your and the FDA's decision to allow irradiation, consequently saving lives. Now we can all enjoy a life with cleaner, safer food!

Sincerely,


Laura Finley

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Attn: Cynthia Jenkins
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